

Berlin Board of Education
Finance and Operations Committee Meeting
March 11, 2021
MINUTES

In Attendance: Timothy Oakes, Chair
Julia Dennis

Also in attendance: Brian Benigni, Superintendent of Schools
Jeffrey Cugno, Director of Operations
Ashley Dorsey, Director of Finance

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Oakes at 4:00 p.m.

II. ESSER II Grant

Ms. Dorsey provided information to the Committee on the ESSER II Grant expected from the federal government. The Committee discussed the timeline of funding as well as authorized uses for the funding. Further discussion is required to determine how the district will allocate funds in the future.

III. End-of-Year Funds

Ms. Dorsey provided the Committee with updates regarding a projected surplus in the operating budget due to COVID savings and general budget adjustments. Mr. Benigni, Mr. Cugno and Ms. Dorsey presented some preliminary thoughts on how the funds could be allocated. The Committee suggested that further review and discussion be put on the next meeting agenda.

IV. Paraprofessional Benefits/Family Plan

Mr. Benigni explained that the district is having a difficult time retaining and/or hiring paras since the benefit package offered is not comparable to that offered in many other districts. The Committee asked the Superintendent to consider modifying the benefit package during next negotiations with the union.

V. New Britain Transportation (NBT)

Mr. Cugno stated that he had opened discussion with NBT regarding an expected contract discount related to reduced bus usage due to COVID for FY 20/21. Ms. Dorsey explained that there was some additional clarification requested from NBT regarding its initial proposal. The Committee asked the staff to finalize the negotiations and to present a recommendation for consideration in a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey P. Cugno
Director of Operations